

Serial No.:09/410,999

In the Claims

Complete listing of claims:

Claims 1-20 (canceled).

Claim 21. (canceled)

Claim 22. (canceled)

Claim 23. (currently amended) A personal care product comprising a top sheet, a surge layer and an absorbent core, wherein ~~the said~~ surge layer is positioned between ~~the said~~ top sheet and ~~the said~~ absorbent core, said surge layer comprises a compression resistant creased first layer, a lower density second layer adjacent said first layer, a third layer adjacent said first layer on a side of the first layer away from said second layer, said second and third layers each ~~independently~~ independently have a density between 0.01 and 0.05 g/cc, and said second layer and said third layer are each ~~independently~~ independently bonded to said first layer.

Claim 24. (currently amended) The personal care product of ~~claim-24~~ claim 23, wherein said first and second layers are bonded together by a method selected from the group consisting of adhesive, mechanical, entanglement, thermal and ultrasonic means.

Claim 25. (currently amended) The personal care product of ~~claim-24~~ claim 23, wherein said second layer has been treated with a wettable surfactant.

Claim 26. (currently amended) A personal care product comprising a top sheet, a surge layer and an absorbent core, wherein ~~the said~~ surge layer is positioned between ~~the said~~ top sheet and ~~the said~~ absorbent core, said surge layer comprises a compression resistant creased first layer, a lower density second layer adjacent ~~the said~~ first layer, said second layer having a density between 0.01 and 0.05 g/cc, and said second layer

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and said first layer being bonded together, wherein said first layer comprises a nonwoven web comprising polyolefin fibers.

Claim 27. (previously presented) The personal care product of claim 26, wherein said polyolefin is polypropylene.

Claim 28. (previously presented) The personal care product of claim 26, wherein said polyolefin fibers are polyethylene/ polypropylene conjugate fibers.

Claim 29. (currently amended) The personal care product of ~~claim 21~~ claim 26, further comprising apertures in said first layer.

Claim 30. (currently amended) The personal care product of ~~claim 21~~ claim 26, wherein said first layer comprises a spunbond nonwoven web.

Claim 31. (currently amended) The personal care product of ~~claim 24~~ claim 26, wherein said second layer comprises conjugated fibers.

Claim 32. (currently amended) The personal care product of ~~claim 24~~ claim 26, wherein said second layer is more wettable than said first layer.

Claim 33. (currently amended) The personal care product of ~~claim 24~~ claim 26, wherein ~~the said~~ second layer is not creased.

Claim 34. (currently amended) The personal care product of claim 23, wherein ~~the said~~ third layer is not creased.

Claim 35. (currently amended) The personal care product of claim 34, wherein ~~the said~~ second layer is not creased.

Claim 36. (currently amended) The personal care product of ~~claim 24~~ claim 26, wherein ~~the said~~ first layer comprises creases with a depth between 0.25 mm and 2 mm and a frequency between 5 and 100 creases per centimeter.

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Claim 37. (currently amended) The personal care product of claim 23, wherein ~~the said~~ first layer comprises spunbond polyethylene/propylene conjugate fibers and ~~the said~~ second and third layers comprises uncreased spunbond polyethylene/polypropylene fibers on either side thereof, said layers being bonded together by through-air bonding.

Claim 38. (currently amended) The personal care product of ~~claim 24~~ claim 26, wherein ~~the said~~ absorbent core comprises pulp.

Claim 39. (currently amended) The personal care product of claim 38, wherein ~~the said~~ absorbent core further comprises a superabsorbent material.

Claim 40. (currently amended) The personal care product of ~~claim 24~~ claim 26, further comprising a backsheet.

Claim 41. (currently amended) The personal care product of ~~claim 24~~ claim 26, wherein ~~the said~~ second layer fills the creased layer.

Claim 42. (currently amended) The personal care product of ~~claim 24~~ claim 26, wherein ~~the said~~ personal care product is a feminine hygiene pad.

Claim 43. (currently amended) The personal care product of ~~claim 24~~ claim 26, wherein ~~the said~~ personal care product is a diaper.

Claim 44. (currently amended) The personal care product of ~~claim 24~~ claim 26, wherein ~~the said~~ personal care product is an adult incontinence product.